

In some of the articular cartilages sometimes there are peculiarities of structure which I think have never been pointed out, and are worthy of notice.

In the articular cartilage of the condyles of the os femoris, I have occasionally noticed numerous minute lacunæ?, found in greatest abundance near the surface of attachment, and gradually decreasing in number until they entirely disappear in the superficial third of the cartilage. They are elongated, compressed, and their long diameter is invariably situated transversely, at right angles to the filamentous matrix, or parallel with the surface of the cartilage. The longest measure transversely  $\frac{1}{1200}$  of an inch, the shortest  $\frac{1}{3125}$  of an inch, in the vertical direction  $\frac{1}{6250}$  of an inch. When well-defined, they appear more transparent than the cartilaginous matrix in which they are situated; when viewed a little within the focus they appear deep black.

Fibres of bone are not unfrequently met with in the articular cartilages, especially in that of the head of the os femoris. They are generally found near the surface of attachment, but are not the continuation of the bony structure upon which the cartilage is placed, for they are always arranged in a direction parallel to the surface. They are compressed cylindrical in form, and in transverse section present an elliptical figure, the long diameter of which is placed at right angles to the filaments of the cartilage matrix. They present a concentrically laminated and a radiated structure, resembling somewhat that of the Haversian ossicle, but they neither present the canal nor the Purkinjean corpuscles.—*Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, vol. iv. p. 117.

#### NOTICE OF AN EXCAVATING CIRRIPEDE.

On the 8th of last June Mr. Albany Hancock communicated to a Meeting of the "Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club," an account of an excavating Cirripede which he had recently discovered on the neighbouring coast. This animal possesses much interest, not only on account of the peculiar habit of burying itself in the shell of mollusks, but likewise for its remarkable deviation of form from all the known types of the class. No part of the animal, though unprovided with shelly plates, is exposed, except two lips which guard a small narrow opening in the surface of the substance in which the Cirripede is concealed.

#### *On the Arrangement of the Areolar Sheath of Muscular Fasciculi and its relation to the Tendon.* By Dr. LEIDY.

It is well known that the fasciculi of fibres of the muscles are surrounded by sheaths of areolar tissue, but the arrangement of the filaments of fibrous tissue forming the sheaths, and their relation with the tendon, I think has not been properly pointed out. From repeated observation, I have found that the filaments of fibrous tissue cross each other diagonally around the muscular fasciculi, forming a doubly spiral extensible sheath. None of the filaments run in the direction of the length of the fasciculi, and but few are transverse. Many of the filaments of a sheath form an interlacement in the same diagonal manner with the filaments of the sheaths of neighbouring